

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims, upon entry of the above amendment, will be 10 to 13.

The above amendment is responsive to points set forth in the Official Action.

Support for new independent claim 10 is evident from the present specification and original claim 1.

In this regard, support for formulae (1) and (5) is evident from page 3 and page 4, line 23 for the case where $c=0$ and $d=0$.

Support for formulae (6), (8) and (9) can be seen e.g. from original claim 2.

The remaining features of new claim 10 are evident from the specification and original claims.

New claim 11 depends on claim 10 and is based on original claim 5.

New claim 12 depends on claim 10 and is based on original claim 3.

New claim 13 depends on claim 10 and is based on original claim 4.

Claims 1 to 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over:

(a) Sybert et al. (U.S. 5,015,698); or

(b) European Patent Application 1 253 164 A1 (hereinafter EP '164);

in view of Japanese Patent Application 2003-0127796 (hereinafter JP '796) or Mayska et al. (U.S. 5,021,543) or Heitz et al. (U.S. 4,487,918).

Claims 6 to 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over:

(a) Sybert et al. (U.S. 5,015,698); or

(b) European Patent Application 1 253 164 A1 (hereinafter EP '164);

in view of Japanese Patent Application 2003-0127796 (hereinafter JP '796) or Mayska et al. (U.S. 5,021,543) or Heitz et al. (U.S. 4,487,918);

as applied to claims 1 to 5, above;

and further in view of Burnell et al. (U.S. 6,165,309).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Sybert et al. (U.S. 5,015,698)

Sybert et al. disclose a polyphenylene ether resin-polyester resin reaction product obtained by functionalizing a terminal of a general monofunctional polyphenylene ether resin with a carboxylic group or the like, and then reacting it with a polyester resin.

European Patent Application 1 253 164 A1 (hereinafter '164)

EP '164 discloses that in a preferred embodiment, the use of a following PPE multiblock is contemplated.

-PPE-(-Z"-PPE-)p- III

p has a value of 1-10, PPE is a polyphenylene ether block and Z" is a carboxylic acid moiety having a functionality of 2 or more. One way to obtain an end group modification is redistribution of PPE. After obtaining the reaction product of bifunctional polyphenylene ether resin with dicarbonic acid by redistribution reaction, the reaction product is reacted with a diol compound to obtain a polyester resin (see [0013]-[0015]).

Mayska (U.S. 5,021,543), Heitz et al. (U.S. 4,487,918) and JP 2003-012976

The above references disclose a process for the production of bifunctional polyphenylene ether oligomer.

Burnell et al. (U.S. 6,165,309)

Burnell et al. disclose a method of increasing the adhesive strength between a metal foil and a substrate containing polyphenylene ether resin (see claim 1).

In contrast to the above, the present invention relates to a laminate comprising a film made of a resin composition containing a polyester resin having a specific structure, which resin is obtained from, as a raw material, a bifunctional phenylene ether oligomer having a specific structure, and metal foil(s) laminated on one surface or both surfaces of the film.

The above cited Sybert et al. EP '164, Mayska, Heitz and JP references do not disclose or suggest the film obtained from the resin composition containing the polyester resin having a specific structure as presently recited and the laminate where metal foil(s) is/are laminated on one surface or both surfaces of said film.

Further, these cited references do not disclose or suggest the functions and effects possessed by the laminate of the present invention e.g. as discussed on pages 1 to 3 of the present specification.

Burnell discloses a method of increasing the adhesive strength between a metal foil and a polyphenylene ether resin substrate. However, its target is a polyphenylene ether resin so that it is irrelevant to the polyester resin of the present invention.

For the foregoing reasons, it is apparent that the rejections on prior art are untenable and should be withdrawn.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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